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### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Krieg DeVault LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Brad A. Schepers		
Date	August 30, 2005	Reg. No.	45,431

### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

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Brad A. Schepers

Date

August 30, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
Charles L. Branch ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No.: 10/698,702 ) Unassigned  
Filed: October 31, 2003 ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS ) Attorney Docket: MSDI-186 (4002-3442)  
AND INSTRUMENTATION ) August 30, 2005

### STATUS REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The last communication received from the United States Patent and Trademark Office was the Notice of Publication of Application on May 13, 2004. Please provide a status report on the above-referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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